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which suits so well with the tory notions of Johnson, and which our modern Anti-Jacobins would be desirous to promulgate as our charter.

K.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

THE reason of my now addressing you, is in consequence of seeing in Mr. Nicholson's Philosophical Journal, for June last, an account of a Life-boat, which so exactly answers in the general plan to that described in your Magazine, for January, 1809, vol. 2, page 36, that I am induced, (being the writer of that article) to lay claim to the *priority of invention*. Indeed, so similar is the plan proposed by Mr. Bremner, to that given in your Magazine, that it comes within the limits of possibility, that he may have seen the directions there published.

I have long been convinced of the practicability of my plan, by a series of experiments made many years ago, but never thought of making it public, until reading in your Magazine, the account of the shipwreck at Ballycastle, vol. 1, page 268, where had any one thought of equipping a common boat, with three or four empty twenty gallon casks, and a little heavy ballast, well secured from shifting, there is great reason to suppose, the crew might have reached the shore in safety. More than two years have elapsed since your publication made known my plan, which was also, at my instance, inserted in the Belfast News-Letter, from the desire of rendering more extended, what I was persuaded would be useful information, and might be successfully employed whenever such a melancholy scene as that described at Ballycastle, presented itself.

My object was to show that a boat may be made ready, when wanted, without any previous preparation, and even where cork-wood is not to be procured. Where every thing can be had, and money is at command, I am convinced that Mr. Christopher Towill's boat (a description of which terminated my former communication) is that which should be adopted in preference to any I have yet seen described. It never entered my mind that an honorary medal or any other emolument would follow my plan; if it should ever be the means of rescuing a single individual from death, I would then receive an ample reward.

Your humble Servant,

JOHN TEMPLETON.

Belfast, November 5, 1811.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

BEING at the Irish Forum in May last, when the question for discussion was, "Whether punishment for death should be abolished," the following ideas occurred to me, which I immediately committed to paper, on my return home. Your giving them a place in your useful miscellany, will oblige (whom you will occasionally hear from) your obedient,

HUGUES.

Dublin, 14th July, 1811.

CONSIDERATIONS ON PUNISHING CRIMES BY DEATH.

IS it possible, without shuddering with horror, to reflect on the periodical havoc of our fellow-beings, made by the laws of these countries for the commission of crimes?

Death is of dreadful things the most dreadful, yet there is scarcely an of-